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**JUDGE ROGER GREGORY.**

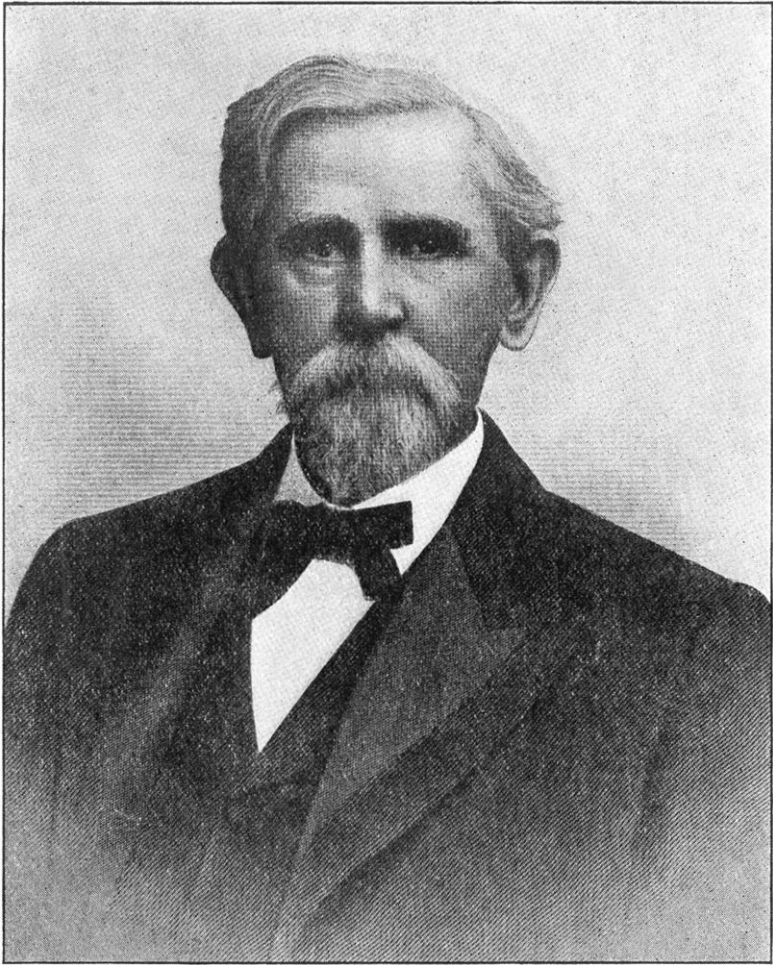
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Honorable Roger Gregory of King William County, Virginia, departed this life at his home, "Elsing Green," in the County of King William, on September 12th, 1920, in the 88th year of his age, surrounded by the surviving members of his family. He was the second son of Roger Gregory and Maria Ellett, having been born April 3rd, 1833, at "Moores," a colonial residence on the Mattaponi River in King William County, then the home of his father. After the death of his grandfather, William Gregory, who owned and resided at "Elsing Green," his father moved with his family to that place, his son, Roger, being at the time a mere youth. There he dispensed to his friends and to his neighbors, from far and near, a hospitality most generous and cordial and typical of the "Old Dominion."

"Elsing Green" was first owned, in colonial times, by Col. William Dandridge, who erected the first residence (of brick) upon it; the building was later burned and restored by another owner, Carter Braxton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The place has been owned by the Gregorys for more than a hundred years.

The subject of this sketch first married his cousin, Mary Ann Maria Brookes, in 1855; she died in 1856 leaving one son, William Gregory, who survived his mother only two years. In 1861 he married Elizabeth (Betty) Frances Allen, daughter of the late William Coates Allen, a highly esteemed and leading citizen of Richmond, Virginia. The children of the last marriage were: Maria Ellett, Roger, Elizabeth Frances, William Coates Allen, Evelina (now Mrs. Roger Taylor Gregory of Tunstall, Virginia), Mary Cole (now Mrs. Edward May Magruder of Charlottesville, Virginia), Nathaniel Jefferson (who died in infancy), and George Edwards. Of these children, three survive him, Roger, Evelina, and Mary Cole. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Richmond.

The educational advantages afforded Judge Gregory were of the best. After some years at school he became a student in the Academic Department of the University of Virginia during the session, 1849-50. He next studied Law at William and Mary College, session 1852-53, and then for the two sessions, 1853-54



*Yours Truly,  
Roger Gregory-*

and 1854-55, at the University of Virginia, graduating from the latter institution in 1855, with the degree of "Bachelor of Law," in the famous school of which Professor John B. Minor was the dean. While a student at the University he so favorably impressed that distinguished teacher that he committed to him the preparation of the Analytical Digest or table of books taught by Mr. Minor, and during the Professor's illness he carried on the law lectures of the latter for three months. At both William and Mary College and the University, Roger Gregory stood at the head of the Law Class and was Class President at both institutions.

Soon after his graduation in Law he entered into partnership, for the practice of his profession, in his native and adjoining counties, with the Honorable Beverly B. Douglas, a leading lawyer and member of Congress of Eastern Virginia.

Without seeking on his part, he was elected by the Legislature of his state the first Judge of King William County under the Constitution of Virginia creating the County Court System, at the beginning of the "Reconstruction Era," and he always felt it as a compliment that all the county officers appointed by him were afterwards re-elected by the people. After having served one term as Judge he declined re-election and was subsequently chosen a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from his home county and served in that capacity during the session 1879-80.

When the Trustees of Richmond College were looking for a man to head its new Department of Law one of Virginia's most distinguished lawyers, when consulted, remarked, "Roger Gregory knows more law than any man in the United States," and then added: "I will modify that statement by saying, he knows more law than any man in the state of Virginia." He was elected Professor of Law of Richmond College in 1890, afterwards becoming Dean of that Department, which under his management and direction, took a high rank among American Law Schools. In 1906, after a service of sixteen years, he resigned from that position retiring to his home where until his death he energetically and successfully engaged in agriculture on a large scale.

During the time of his service in connection with Richmond

College he was elected from his county as a member of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, 1901-2, chosen to revise the Constitution of the state. In that body, recognized by every one as being composed of the ablest men of the commonwealth, he was conspicuous for his learning and ability, serving as a member of the Committee on Revision, which was made up of the leading men of the Convention.

On his retirement from the Law Department of Richmond College, a former student who knew him well thus wrote: "Were it not for his extreme modesty and retiring nature he might have been elevated to public positions of the highest honor and trust, for he is singularly qualified to discharge public duties with eminent satisfaction and has adorned every office he has held. Office, power, and public honors, he never sought; *they sought him* and never found him prepared to welcome them except as a sense of duty commanded. \* \* \* His work as a teacher of the law demands especial commendation and perhaps his greatest achievement has been the successful upbuilding of the Law School at Richmond College, where the difficulties confronting him were well nigh insuperable and disheartening in the extreme. The number of students at first was small, he had no assistant, and the whole burden and responsibility for success or failure rested upon him alone. \* \* \* But complete success has crowned his efforts and year after year as the law school has grown and prospered, the quality of his constructive work has become more and more apparent. \* \* \* He possesses in high degree the rare faculty not only of imparting knowledge, but of creating a thirst for knowledge and has made the Law attractive to his students. He 'honors every truth by use' and has acquired the love and admiration of all who have come within the influence of his noble nature."

Upon the occasion above referred to the law classes in coöperation with lawyers who had graduated under his teachings presented him with a handsome "Loving Cup" as a testimonial of their high personal regard and of his ability and efficiency as a teacher.

Early in the great Civil War, 1861-65, he volunteered in the "Lee Rangers," of which the Honorable Beverly B. Douglas was

Captain. This Company became Company H of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry Regiment. He was esteemed by his comrades and superior officers as a brave and faithful soldier.

The influence of Roger Gregory in his native and surrounding counties as a wise counsellor and ardent democrat was far-reaching. In the midst of the acrimony and excitement that followed the enfranchisement of the negroes, at a large political gathering at his county Court House when he was Judge, the negroes, inflamed by an acrimonious political appeal, reached a state of riot and were beyond the control of the officers of the law, when Judge Gregory appealed to them in behalf of good order and quiet deportment. The excitement was at once allayed and the rioters quietly dispersed retiring to their homes without more disturbance.

In the death of Honorable Roger Gregory the state has lost one of her most learned and accomplished jurists as well as a citizen whose sterling character compelled universal respect and admiration and will leave its beneficent impress upon his people and profession for many years to come.

His charities were abundant but unobtrusive and his generosity without limit; the relationship existing between himself and the members of his family was based upon mutual tenderness, devotion, and admiration, while he enjoyed the unbounded confidence of his countrymen of whatever race. Were his predominant characteristics called for those who knew him best would answer: Justice, fidelity, integrity, appreciation, and thoroughness, with a mental balance and acumen that weighed every detail with clearest vision. These being the governing principles of his life, it is but natural that he should have attracted hosts of friends and admirers who, with one accord, will unite in the sentiment:—

“He was a man, take him all in all,  
I shall not look upon his like again.”